

Lord, Teach Us about Bullying
(Hebrews 4:15-16)

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday, in our study of the Lord's Invitation (Matthew 11:28-30), we pointed out that Jesus understands how we feel when we are tested.
2. Hebrews 4:15 shows that He understands how we feel because He faced the same trials during His life on earth that we face today.
3. Hebrews 4:16 teaches us that mercy and grace are available to us at His throne.
4. In our lesson we are concentrating on a particular trial that Jesus faced: "bullying."
5. Before we examine some occasions when Jesus was bullied, His responses, and His teaching, let us consider some . . .

Discussion:

- I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT "BULLYING"
 - A. Let us first define it (Webster).
 1. A bully is "a quarrelsome, overbearing person who badgers and intimidates."
 2. To bully is "to intimidate or terrorize, to be loudly arrogant and overbearing."
 - B. "Bullying" is not a new problem -- it has existed for a long time.
 1. Cain bullied Abel (Genesis 4:8).
 2. Joseph's brothers bullied him (Genesis 37:23-24).
 3. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem bullied Nehemiah as they tried to stop work on the wall around Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:19).
 4. Haman bullied the Jews as he made a plan to destroy them (Esther 3:5-6).
 5. Nebuchadnezzar bullied Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:15).
 6. Diotrephes was a bully in the early church (3 John 9-10).
 7. As Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 1:9, "*there is no new thing under the sun,*" including "bullying."
 8. Unfortunately, bullying will continue until the Lord returns.
- II. JESUS WAS BULLIED DURING HIS LIFE ON EARTH
 - A. Herod was a bully when he tried to kill Jesus as a baby (Matthew 2:16).
 - B. Satan was a bully when he tempted Jesus after His baptism (Matthew 4:3, 6, 9).
 - C. The Pharisees were bullies when they:
 1. attributed the Lord's power to Beelzebub (Matthew 9:34; 12:24)
 2. criticized Jesus for healing on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:9-10)
 3. tempted Jesus by asking questions about divorce (Matthew 19:3), paying tribute to Caesar (Matthew 22:15-17), and the great commandment in the law (Matthew 22:34-36).
 - D. The Sadducees were bullies when they asked Jesus a hypothetical question about the resurrection (Matthew 22:23-28).
 - E. The chief priests and elders were bullies when they asked Jesus about His authority (Matthew 21:23).
 - F. Jesus was bullied during His trial (Matthew 26:59-68; 27:27-31).
- III. THE BIBLE SHOWS HOW JESUS RESPONDED TO BULLYING
 - A. He did not attack those who bullied Him.
 1. John 18:22-23
 2. Luke 23:33-34
 - B. However, He stood up for others who were bullied.
 1. He told the apostles to leave Mary alone (Mark 14:6).
 2. He stood up for the woman caught in adultery (John 8:7).
- IV. THE LORD'S WORD SHOWS US HOW TO RESPOND TO BULLYING
 - A. See:
 1. Matthew 5:38-39, 43-48
 2. Romans 12:14, 17-21
 3. Philippians 4:5

B. We are to follow the Lord's example (1 Peter 2:21-23).

Conclusion:

1. When we are bullied, let us remember that Jesus was bullied without sin.
2. Let us boldly approach His throne for mercy and grace to help.